



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, California 93940

January 8, 2003

Dear Working Group Member,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is undertaking a review of its initial management plan. A decade of experience protecting the marine ecosystem and working with the community has helped us to identify issues and strategies that should potentially be incorporated into our management scheme. Over the last year and a half these issues were further honed over a series of public scoping meetings and workshops with our Sanctuary Advisory Council. From this process we have identified fifteen specific issues that we will seek additional public input on in a working group format. This working group will help the Sanctuary further define the potential strategies and actions to incorporate fishing issues into education and research plans.

The need for incorporating fishing issues into education and research plans is an example of a strategy identified by the public that will help the Sanctuary achieve its mandate of ecosystem protection. We want to thank each of you for agreeing to lend your expertise to this issue and we look forward to working with you over the next few months. This package is to provide you with background information regarding the Sanctuary, the management plan review process, and current fishing activities. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with as much of this material as possible before our first meeting on January 23rd. We appreciate the value of your time and it is our aim to make this first meeting as substantive as possible. Enclosed you will find the following materials:

- Issue Background
- Scoping Comments Related to Fishing Issues
- The 1992 MBNMS Management Plan, Regulations, Designation Document, and National Marine Sanctuaries Act (as amended in 2000)
- The Monterey Bay State of the Sanctuary Report
- Overview of the Joint Management Plan Review process
- The Management Plan Review Priority Issue Work Plan
- HIIHWS Natural Resource Protection Action Plan (provided as an example from the 2002 Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Management Plan of the type of product that will be generated from the working group process).



- Scientific Research Plan for the MBNMS (September 1993)
- Trends in Fisheries and Fishery Resources Associated with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary From 1981-2000; Starr, Cope, and Kerr 2002

I hope that you find these documents useful in understanding the purpose and objectives of the management plan review and working group processes. If you have any questions before the meeting please feel free to contact me at 831-647-4246, or at erica.burton@noaa.gov. There is also a section of our website that will be devoted to postings, contacts, and information specific to each working group at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>. Again, the first meeting is Thursday, January 23rd from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sanctuary office at 299 Foam Street in Monterey. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Burton".

Erica Burton

Research Specialist